

IN HONOR OF MARIA T. VULLO

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Maria T. Vullo, who is being honored by Eleanor's Legacy as part of its New York Women Making a Difference ceremony. Maria Vullo is an accomplished litigator who is passionate about women's rights. She oversaw research which has been instrumental in documenting the many reasons why the Equal Rights Amendment is still necessary. On January 21, 2016, in recognition of her extraordinary breadth of experience in financial litigation, Governor Cuomo nominated Ms. Vullo to be Superintendent of the New York State Department of Financial Services, a position she will assume on February 23rd.

Ms. Vullo is an experienced senior litigator and manager, who has more than 25 years of trial and appellate experience in a broad range of business litigation and investigations in state and federal courts across the country. Ms. Vullo's private practice has included matters involving fraud, real estate, health care, insurance, tax, consumer protection, bankruptcy, antitrust, constitutional and environmental law. Since 2010 she has been of counsel at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP, where she had been a partner for 20 years before a brief stint in the Attorney General's office.

In 2010, Ms. Vullo oversaw the Economic Justice Division in the Office of the New York State Attorney General, with a staff of approximately 200. She was responsible for numerous investor protection, antitrust and consumer fraud matters, including Martin Act investigations and settlements, investigations and litigations regarding insurance company practices, allegations of price fixing, bid rigging and other antitrust violations, deceptive consumer marketing practices, and violations relating to cooperative and condominium offerings.

Ms. Vullo has always spent a considerable amount of her time on pro bono matters. She is a recognized leader in protecting women's rights. She represented women raped by soldiers during the 1992–1995 Bosnian War—a case in which she secured a \$745 million jury verdict for the plaintiffs. She also represented abortion providers whose lives had been threatened via an online “hit list,” securing a \$100 million jury verdict for the plaintiffs.

I came to know Ms. Vullo when she became involved in providing research to explain why we continue to need an Equal Rights Amendment. Her brilliance, dedication and determination were evident as she provided invaluable information on the broad range of ways in which women continue to face discrimination, including pregnancy-related discrimination, violence against women, pay inequity and other areas. I am hopeful that Ms. Vullo's research will lead to the passage of an amendment that will finally ensure that women's equality is guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

Ms. Vullo is a member of the Boards of Directors of the National Organization of Italian-American Women, the Women's Equality Coalition and the ERA Coalition, Inc.; and is a member of the New York Women's Bar Association and the Women Trial Lawyers Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Maria T. Vullo, a New York woman who makes an extraordinary difference.

## TRIBUTE TO MS. SIDMEL ESTES

**HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following Proclamation:

Whereas, our lives have been touched by the life of this one woman, who gave of herself in order for others to stand; and

Whereas, Ms. Sidmel Estes' work is present in Atlanta, Georgia for all to see, as an unwavering advocate for the youth, an educator, a community leader who worked tirelessly for the rights of our citizens in our district and as a pioneer in journalism and television; and

Whereas, she was elected the first woman president of the National Association of Black Journalists; and

Whereas, Ms. Sidmel Estes led by working behind the scenes, as well as front and center as an executive producer at WAGA-TV/Fox 5 in Atlanta; as co-creator for the television show Good Day Atlanta; as adjunct professor at Emory University and Clark Atlanta University; and

Whereas, this virtuous Proverbs 31 woman was a mother, a sister, a daughter and a friend. She was a warrior, a matriarch, and a woman of great integrity; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to bestow a Congressional recognition on Ms. Sidmel Estes for her leadership, friendship and service to all of the citizens in Georgia and throughout the Nation; now therefore, I, HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, Jr., do hereby attest to the 114th Congress that Ms. Sidmel Estes of DeKalb County, Georgia is deemed worthy and deserving of this “Congressional Honor”: Ms. Sidmel Estes, U.S. Citizen of Distinction in the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 10th day of October, 2015.

## HONORING MOTHER MATTIE MAE AMOS-MARSHALL

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Mattie Mae Amos-Marshall, who was born in a small community in Florence, Mississippi called Steen Creek on October 15, 1915 to the late Mr. Ben and Salle White-Amos.

Mrs. Marshall married her childhood sweetheart, the late Mr. Jessie Marshall, at the age of 18 and moved to Flora, Mississippi where she began a family of her own.

Mrs. Marshall was baptized at a young age at Stokes Chapel MB Church and later moved her membership to Jones Chapel MB Church where she is a member of the Mother's Board. Mrs. Marshall moved to Canton, Mississippi as a child and was educated in the Madison County School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mother Mattie Mae Amos-Marshall.

## GEORGE VALUCK

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize George Valuck for receiving the Steve Burkholder Diamond Legacy award from The West Chamber of Jefferson County.

This award is given to an individual who is recognized as a “shining star” due to their leadership and contributions in making Jefferson County a better place to work and live.

A husband, father and grandfather, Mr. Valuck's story stretches from Alameda Avenue to serving as entertainment for the royal wedding of Lady Diana and Prince Charles.

George's recent focus has been centered on downtown Lakewood and its successful Belmar and City Commons districts. Downtown Lakewood is now home to more than 200 stores, eateries and attractions, as well as thousands of new residents and many employers, and has been cited as a world-wide example of smart new-urban living.

I extend my deepest congratulations to George Valuck for his honor by The West Chamber. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same commitment to the community in the future.

## HONORING AMANDA WEINSTEIN

**HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 23, 2016*

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Amanda Weinstein, a young student from my district who was recently recognized for exemplary volunteer service. Amanda was named one of the top honorees in Florida by the 2016 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor given to the most impressive student volunteers throughout our Nation.

Currently a senior at North Broward Preparatory School, Amanda founded the “Family Central Teen Advisory Board” in 2013. Since then, she has encouraged fifty teens to share in her mission to assist the parent organization Family Central, a nonprofit that helps children and families in need. Amanda, who had been volunteering with Family Central for ten years, organizes toy, food, clothing and school supply drives, and has also created a tutoring and mentoring program.

Among thousands of volunteers who participated in this year's program, Amanda's dedication and strive for excellence stood out as exceptional. I applaud Amanda for her initiative in seeking to make our community a better place to live.

I happily congratulate Amanda and wish her the best of luck in her future academic and community pursuits. It is with great pleasure that I honor her, and I know that she will continue to inspire young South Floridians to live by her example.